Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 INT-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 /101 W

-----101380 232305Z/13

R 231048Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4060

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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- 1. AN ARTICLE IN THE MARCH 17 TRYBUNA LUDU REPORTS THE USSR HAS SHIPPED 2,250,000 TONS OF IRON ORE TO POLAND SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR. THE AORE HAS BEEN TRANSSHIPPED FROM SOVIET TO POLISH RAILWAY CARS AT THE ZURAWICAMEDYKA FRONTIER POINT JUST EAST OF THE CITY OF PRZEMYSL IN SOUTEASTERN POLAND.
- 2. SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS, OR ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE TOTAL SHIPPED, CONSISTING OF "THE HIGHEST QUALITY, RED, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAGNETIC ORE," HAVE BEEN SENT DIRECTLY TO THE HUTA KATOWICE STEEL COMBINE NOW BEING BUILT IN SILESIA WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE.

3. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM THE STATISTIC ON SOVIET EXPORTS,
THIS ARTICLE IS INTERESTING AS ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE
CLOSE INVOLVEMENT THE USSR WILL HAVE WITH KATOWICE, WHICH

WILL BE THE LARGEST STEEL MILL IN POLAND (ANNUAL OUTPUT ABOUT NINE MILLION TONS) WHEN COMPLETED ABOUT 1982. IN ADDITION TO STRESSING THE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT AND THE HIGH QUALITY OF ORE ALLOCATED FOR KATOWICE, THE ARTICLE USES THE WORD TRANSSHIPPED (PRZELADOWANO) SEVERAL TIMES, THEREBY UNDERLINING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEW BROAD-GUAGE RAILWAY BEING BUILT FROM THE SOVIET BORDER TO KATOWICE WHICH WILL MAKE DIRECT DELIVERIES POSSIBLE.

4. ALTHOUGH 1977 FIGURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE, THE POLISH STATISTICAL YEARBOOK FOR 1977 LISTS IRON ORE IMPORTS FROM THE USSR AS 11.0 MILLION TONS IN 1975 AND 11.8 MILLION TONS IN 1976. IF THE MONTHLY EXPORT LEVEL INDICATED IN THE TRYBUNA LUDU ARTICLE IS MAINTAINED, 1978 IMPORTS COULD BE BETWEEN 12 AND 13 MILLION TONS. END COMMENT.

SCHAUFELE

NOTE BY OC/T: WARSAW 2448 RECD WITHOUT E.O., TAGS OR SUBJ.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: MARINE TRANSPORTATION, IRON

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 23 mar 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WARSAW02448
Document Source: COPE
Document History: DOC

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: n/a

Expiration: Film Number: D780129-0270 Format: TEL

From: WARSAW Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780330/aaaaazac.tel

Line Count: 81 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ec0a38be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EB

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 26 apr 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:**

Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3219113 Secure: OPEN

Status: <DBA CHANGED> VJT 20040903

Subject: USSR HAS SHIPPED 2,250,000 TONS OF IRON ORE TO POLAND

TAGS: EMIN To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ec0a38be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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